

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 22, wherein the filter material comprises a bundle of fibers.

7-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 11~~ claim 23, wherein the filter member comprises a bundle of fibers.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the filter member supply step further includes a process of distributing particles of adsorbent into the fiber bundle before the fiber bundle reaches the wrapping section.

18-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A filter assembly for a cigarette, comprising:

a cylindrical-shaped plain filter element;

a cylindrical-shaped charcoal filter element arranged adjacent to the plain filter element, the plain filter element and the charcoal filter element including a filter material

made of a bundle of fibers, and filter material of the charcoal filter element having particles of adsorbent distributed therein;

wrapping paper wound around the filter elements;

a single forming paper wound around the wrapping paper; and

a single tip paper wound around the forming paper, the forming paper and the tip paper extending along an entire length of plain filter element and the charcoal filter element,

wherein an inner adhesive region is provided between the wrapping paper and the filter elements for bonding the wrapping paper and the filter elements to each other, the inner adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter elements,

an intermediate adhesive region is provided between the forming paper and the wrapping paper for bonding the forming paper to the wrapping paper, the intermediate adhesive region having a part applied with the adhesive and continuously extending in the circumferential direction of the filter elements,

an outer adhesive region is provided between the tip paper and the forming paper for bonding the tip paper to the forming paper,

wherein the inner adhesive region constitutes a continuous loop pattern with loops extending laterally over almost an entire width of the wrapping paper as viewed in development of the wrapping paper, the loops of the continuous loop pattern being arranged at predetermined intervals and extending in a spiral-shaped pattern in a longitudinal direction

of the wrapping paper as viewed in the development of the wrapping paper, the longitudinal direction being parallel to a length of the cigarette.

23. (New) A method of producing filter assemblies for cigarettes, comprising the steps of:

supplying a rod-shaped filter member and a paper web to a wrapping section;

continuously wrapping the filter member in the paper web when the filter member and the paper web pass through the wrapping section, to form a filter rod surrounded by wrapping paper,

wherein the filter rod comprises plain and charcoal filter plugs alternately arranged in series, each of the plain filter plugs having a filter material and the wrapping paper wound around the filter material, and each of the charcoal filter plugs having the filter material with particles of activated charcoal distributed through the filter material,

the method further comprising the steps of:

cutting the filter rod into filter plugs of predetermined length;

winding a single forming paper around the wrapping paper;

winding a single tip paper around the single forming paper, the forming paper and the tip paper extending along an entire length of the filter rod;

providing an inner adhesive region between the paper and the filter member for bonding the wrapping paper and the filter rod to each other, the inner adhesive region having

a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter member;

providing an intermediate adhesive region between the forming paper and the wrapping paper for bonding the forming paper to the wrapping paper, the intermediate adhesive region having a part applied with the adhesive and continuously extending in the circumferential direction of the filter member; and

providing an outer adhesive region between the tip paper and the forming paper for bonding the tip paper to the forming paper,

wherein the inner adhesive region constitutes a continuous loop pattern with loops extending laterally over almost an entire width of the wrapping paper as viewed in development of the wrapping paper, the loops of the continuous loop pattern being arranged at predetermined intervals and extending in a spiral-shaped pattern in a longitudinal direction of the wrapping paper as viewed in the development of the wrapping paper, the longitudinal direction being parallel to a length of the cigarettes.